

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 21, 22, 24, 30-38, 40, 41 are presently active in this case, Claims 21, 40, and 41 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Claims 1-16, 18-20, 23, 25-29, and 39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments set forth herein as they are believed to place the application into condition for allowance, and as they are not believed to raise any issues that were not previously considered.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 18, 19, and 23 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Claims 18, 19, and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to Claims 18, 19, and 23.

Claim 39 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of Claim 21. Claim 39 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to Claim 39. The Applicants note that the limitation stating "wherein the transfer surface is not in contact with any imperfect transfer portions" has been removed from Claim 21, which is not presumed to raise any new issue since this phrase was not present in allowable Claim 39.

Claim 40 was objected to for a typographical informality. Claim 40 has been amended to remove the typographical informality. Claim 40 was also objected to under 37

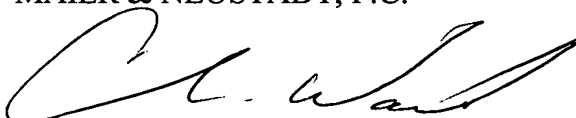
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CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of Claim 41. Claim 40 has been amended to insert the original language regarding convex shapes, thus distinguishing it from Claim 41 and correcting the typographical informality. Additionally, Claims 40 and 41 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 21, since Claim 39 has been canceled.

The present Amendment is believed to correct all of the formal matters raised in the outstanding Official Action without raising any issues that require opening prosecution on the merits. Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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